



City of New Bedford
Scott W. Lang, Mayor

City of New Bedford
Office of the Mayor
Contact: Elizabeth Treadup
(508) 979-1410
Elizabeth.Treadup@ci.new-bedford.ma.us

Date: July 09, 2007
For Immediate Release

P R E S S R E L E A S E

New Bedford Seeks Community Partners to Join City's Grant Application for 2007 State Anti-Gang Grant Funds

New Bedford, Massachusetts- The City of New Bedford is currently accepting applications from community-based organizations, service agencies and community partners for inclusion in the city's upcoming application to the Massachusetts Executive Office of Public Safety for 2007 Charles E. Shannon Anti-Gang Grant funding. In 2006, New Bedford was awarded \$1 million in anti-gang grant funds by the Massachusetts Executive Office of Public Safety. This year, New Bedford will again pursue a portion of the \$11 million in statewide funding reauthorized by the legislature.

The initial \$1 million in gang prevention funding awarded to the City of New Bedford has enabled one year of H.O.P. E. (Healthy Opportunities for Peaceful Engagement) Collaborative programming and initiatives. The H.O.P.E. Collaborative is a network of New Bedford community-based organizations, service agencies, and community members committed to building and sustaining safe, productive and peaceful opportunities to combat gang violence. Another round of funding will allow H.O.P.E. partners to continue to develop and implement strategies and programs to address the root cause of violence while promoting positive, peaceful opportunities in New Bedford.

Mayor Scott W. Lang encourages continued community participation in the city's work to reduce gang violence, "Additional funding will allow New Bedford to continue to build the foundation for long term sustainable, effective strategies and programs to address gang violence issues. I look forward to partnering with the many community service and law enforcement organizations to put forth the most comprehensive grant application to the Executive Office of Public Safety that when funded will allow New Bedford to continue to make progress in the reduction of gang-violence," said Mayor Lang.

The application process is open to both new and existing partners of the H.O.P.E. Collaborative. Expanded services will be considered in four major categories including

street outreach services, case management services, re-entry services and job training/placement/education services.

The deadline to submit written proposals for inclusion in the City of New Bedford grant proposal is 12:00 noon on July 11th, 2007. Proposals are to be submitted to Deirdre Lopes, Director of the H.O.P.E. Collaborative at Deirdre.Lopes@ci.new-bedford.ma.us. A panel of independent readers will review the proposals submitted to the City and then recommendations will be made through the H.O.P.E. Executive Committee to the Mayor.

###